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# PAARA

**vol. 25**

**JULY, 1982.**

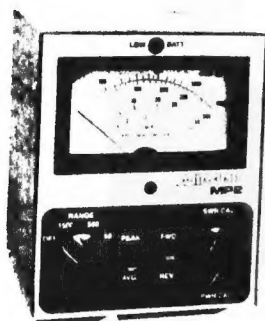
## Graphs



**palo alto  
AMATEUR  
RADIO ASSN.**

**MENLO PARK C.D. RADIO CLUB, K6YQT**

# SPRING CLEARANCE



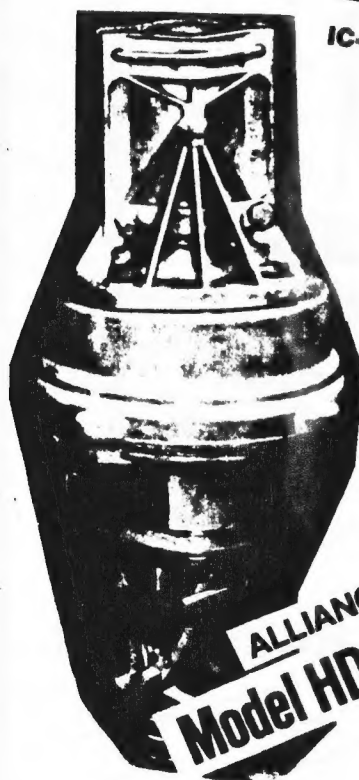
**MP2  
WATTMETER**



**IC-551D**



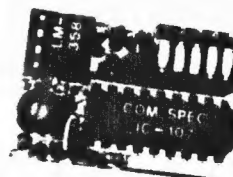
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Friday, July 9, 1982

7:30pm

R E G U L A R                      M E E T I N G

CARE AND FEEDING OF REPEATERS

by

Lance Ginner, K6GSJ

Repeaters in ham use have their own problems, such as requiring a high degree of reliability. All those who have ever worked on a repeater or used one should find Lance's talk interesting. Be there!

Meeting to be held at the Menlo Park Recreation Centre. Future meetings: August 6, 1982; September 3, 1982.

Circle the Date.

July 9, 1982

PAARAgaphs is the official organ of the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association and the Menlo Park Civil Defense Radio Club.

1982 CLUB OFFICERS:

President	:	Gerry Tucker	WA6LNV	326-4908
Vice-President	:	Kevin Lapp	WA6FAC	364-2654
Secretary	:	Gerry Wagstaffe	W6NIR	325-4670
Treasurer	:	George Nixon	GI3OEN	854-6445
Trustee, K6OTX	:	Fred Canham	K6YT	948-9238
Property	:	Ed Fairbanks	W6AIN	322-0319
Co-property	:	Fred Canham	K6YT	948-9238

ARES Officer : Steve Stuntz K6FS 322-4952  
Club Historian : Jerry Zobel W6ARA 322-0063

Club net : 147.45 MHZ, Monday, 8:30 L.T.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Chairman : Gerry Tucker WA6LNV  
Members : John Buonocore KD6ZL  
: Wally Porter K6URO  
: vacant  
: Ed Fairbanks W6AIN  
: Bill McElhinney KA6LZI  
: Bob Wheeler K6SEM

PAARAGRAPHS STAFF:

Editor : George Nixon GI3OEN  
Advertising : Swede Swenson N6CHL  
Mailing : Bill McElhinney KA6LZI  
Cover : Sue Lindner LØVLY

PAARA POLICIES:

Membership in PAARA is \$6.00 per calendar year (payable in January), which membership includes a subscription to PAARAgaphs. Freebee distribution to those who indicate an interest in the Club, and as an inducement to their becoming members, and is subject to change with changing interests in the Club. Make payment to: P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94025

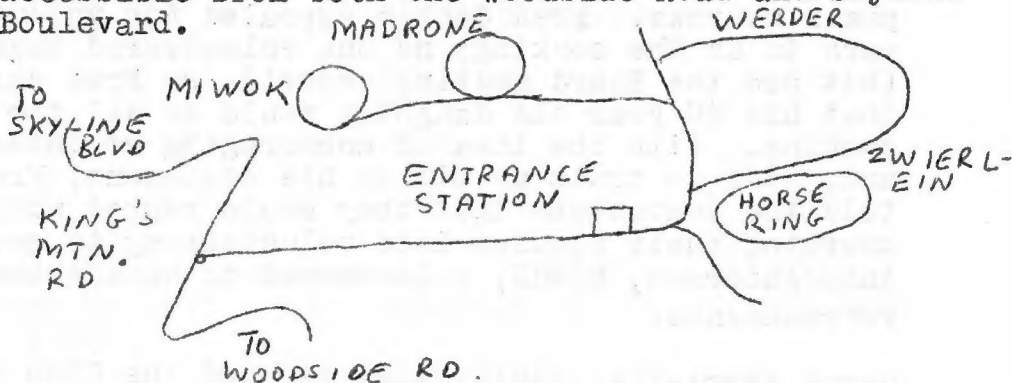
Written contributions to the P.O. Box above, or to the Editor, 1140 Sherman Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Deadline is two or three days after the Board of Director's meeting.

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

If you missed the last meeting, you missed one of the great speakers of Ham Radiodom, Tom Schiller, N6BT. Tom gave us a superbly prepared look at the wild but fun world of contesting. He held his audience spellbound, describing how 3 seconds saved per "Q" could amount to hours over the course of a contest. There was even a contesters' diet! Field-day prep. is running full steam ahead. New antennas, new radio gear, old enthusiasm, etc. By the time you read this, our fate will have been sealed; hopefully, we can cut another notch in the CCRC plaque. Save the date for the July picnic. (at the Miwok Shelter, Huddart Park, Woodside, on Sunday, July 25. See later for road directions. Ed.) PAARA supplies beer, soda and a hot fire. Bring your own grill items and a portable rig for the Post 599 sponsored TX hunt. Some help will be provided on DF antennas at the July 9 meeting. All it takes is a coat hanger and a broomstick. (Look at pg. 148, May 1978, '73 Magazine.)

de Gerry Tucker, WA6LNV

Road directions to Huddart Park and Miwok Shelter: The Park is off King's Mountain Road, which is accessible from both the Woodside Road and Skyline Boulevard.



CLUB MEETING & BOARD MEETING REPORTS: The Club meeting of June 4, 1982, was held in the Menlo Park Recreation Centre with a good crowd in attendance.

First, a report was given by the Post 599 members of their stand at a local High School. All went well except for their being placed next to a spark generator demonstration, which limited communication capability severely!

The next report was made by Jerry Starkey, WA6LIJ, concerning the Flea Market held at Foothill College on May 22. Like all Treasurers in similar circumstances, Gerry exuded happiness as he reported that the event had been a good financial success. This time, the Flea Market was held in the lower parking lots as lot T was being resurfaced; Gerry said that his only worry was that some of the older attendees might have a heart attack as they climbed the hill to the restrooms at the top!

Fred Canham, K6YT, then mentioned that the Club Auction would be held on Saturday, the 9th October, and he urged all members to sort out their unwanted (and hence for sale) gear between now and then.

Concerning Field Day, Swede Swenson, N6CHL, and Gerry Tucker, WA6LNV, will be handling the Natural power sources. Fred Canham appealed for volunteers to do the cooking; no one volunteered then (but see the Board Meeting report), so Fred said that his 20 year old daughter would do all the cooking. With the idea of encouraging volunteers, and, with no truth at all in his statement, Fred told the contesters that they would regret not coercing their spouses into volunteering to cook! Andy Anderson, K6EHS, volunteered to handle the refreshments.

Gerry Wagstaffe, W6NIR, then regaled the Club memb-



ers with a rather long story concerning a party of Alaskan hams who were climbing Mount McKinley, the highest mountain in the U.S. and 20320 feet high, with the deliberation appropriate to the bad weather (heavy snow) that existed at the time. The snow was so heavy, in fact, that the party talked of abandoning the attempt; then, as they peered out of their tent into the snow, they saw a lone climber, coming down from the summit, carrying a 2 metre handheld TX, and looking perfectly at home in the bad weather!

The featured speaker of the evening was Tom Schiller, N6BT; talking on contesting. As our President has said, this was one of the best talks in a long time.

Tom Schiller has broken contesting into its component parts, has figured out ways to raise the efficiency of each component part, and now has an almost unbeatable contest system. Your Editor will not try to cover all the hints that Tom gave us; your Editor will summarize by saying that the occasion reminded him of the first time that he saw the then-Northern Ireland chess champion play six simultaneous games of blindfold chess!

The Board Meeting of June 9, 1982, was held at the Club trailer, and present were: Gerry Tucker, WA6LNV; Gerry Wagstaffe, W6NIR; Ed Fairbanks, W6AIN; Fred Canham, K6YT; Bill McElhinney, KA6LZI; Kevin Lapp, WA6FAC; John Buonocore, KD6ZL; Andy Anderson, K6EHS; Dave Daniel, KB6WP; and George Nixon, GI3OEN. Gerry Tucker chaired the meeting.

The first item for discussion concerned the reporting by PAARAgaphs. Your Editor has regarded all as grist for the mill; however, some members have thought that they were getting ground up in the same mill. A compromise was struck, and, Fred

Canham, K6YT, suggested increasing the size of obituaries in PAARAgaphs and decreasing the size of other sections!

The next subject for discussion concerned the approaching fifty-year anniversary of PAARA. No one present is sure of when the Club actually started; however, documents date back to at least 1936, so it is a matter of urgency to be sure that we do not miss the anniversary. Any member who knows about the origin of the Club should please contact our Historian, Jerry Zobel, W6ARA.

This topic lead to a discussion of our inability to get a representative to attend the CCRC meetings in South San Francisco. Anyone who is interested in helping out should contact Gerry Tucker.

After this, raffle and other prizes were discussed briefly, without any main policy change being decided upon.

With Field Day so close, it was inevitable that most of the remaining discussion centred on this. Dave Daniel and XYL, Joyce?, volunteered to cook the Sunday morning breakfast; Andy Anderson and XYL, Sally, volunteered to help Fred's daughter with the Saturday night dinner; and Kevin Lapp, WA6FAC, will be handling the OSCAR station.

Fred Canham called for volunteers to clear the undergrowth at the Field Day site at the boat yard. Normally, it seems that a person whom Gerry Wagstaffe calls a bug professor, and Fred Canham calls an entomologist goes through the area, catching all bugs and removing all undergrowth; however, this year, he didn't, so Fred and his volunteers haveto!

As a last item for discussion, not related to Field Day, PAARA is holding a net at 9.00pm, Monday



evenings, after the 2 metre net, on 14.287 MHZ for PAARA members up in Washington and Oregon, and parts even further afield.

LETTERS:

From Terry Conboy, N6RY.

George,

A red dot appeared so here's my check for '82. I ran into Jim & Lisa at the Fort Vancouver Hamfest last week. They seem to enjoy being in the N.W.

My apologies to K6YT for missing several of our skeds. Sunday nights have been busy of late.

73, Terry, N6RY.

From L.A. Moxon, G6XN, Gorse Hill, Tilford Road, Hindhead, Surrey GU26 6SJ, England.

(Les Moxon was recently in the Palo Alto area giving a talk, among other things. Your Editor wrote to Les inviting him to visit the Club on his next trip.)

Dear George,

Thank you for your letter. I am sorry also that we failed to meet up, but thank you for the invitation. I have made a note to tell any other British amateurs I hear about heading your way of your Club.

There are, I think, quite a few G's visiting W6 these days, but I have little hope of another visit myself. This was quite a rare opportunity, though in the 13 years since I retired, the XYL and I

have made 3 trips to various parts of the U.S.A. and Canada, and we hope this will not be our last as there is still so much we have not seen.

This was our second visit to California and we enjoyed wonderful hospitality and met lots of interesting people. Before that, we had been touring Arizona looking at desert flowers, red rocks, canyons, etc. The whole trip was a delightful experience for us.

This, incidentally, is my 54th year with the call G6XN.

I would like to conclude with a reciprocal invitation to you or any of your club members who may find themselves in these parts - particularly any who may be interested in aeriels. You may have heard of my book "H.F. Antennas for all Locations" which has just been published by the R.S.G.B. I understand this should shortly be available via the A.R.R.L.

Yours sincerely,

Les Moxon, G6XN.

From Bob Duncumb, ex R.A.F., commercial traveller, from Copenhagen.

What ten days of 80° sunshine does for the Scandinavian complexion has to be seen..... Whole of northern Europe has an early heat wave. Bottle of beer \$4.00. Cabs \$5.00 a mile. A waitress in Drammen, suburb of Oslo, makes \$35,000 - 40,000 a year. Better be rich to live here year round, but what a super place! Oh, and the Tivoli is up to 12 kroner. Now to Kuwait, Karachi & Kairo.

B.D.

(N.B. Your Editor lived in Copenhagen for some time in the 1960's and he would recommend a trip to Scandinavia for any Europe-bound tourist.)

From Ed. Camp, 1161 Cloud Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Dear George,

(Then follows a few sentences about dues which are omitted.)

Swede Swenson has been trying to get me to get a Novice licence, but so far, thru no fault of Swede's, no luck. I found that my antenna is broken, I looked at a Hygain TH 3MK 3 (with stainless steel hardware) - I don't know why it must be stainless steel hardware, that's what was recommended. Swede was going to see if he could locate some ham who wanted to make a few bucks for himself or the club. Perhaps you and Swede can come up with someone for I'll gladly pay to have this properly taken care of.

..... I hope to attend a meeting or two in the near future. Please thank Swede for his encouragement.

Kindest regards,

Ed. Camp.

From Bill Griffith, W9DDN.

PAARA,

I am on the Club records as WB6HWZ which I have given up, but I have retained my old '9 land call of W9DDN.

Bill Griffith.

## SILENT KEY

Larry Reed, W6CTH, died on June 8, 1982, of a heart attack, aged 75. PAARA members will remember Larry best as our old auctioneer for the Club Auction, but he was also well-known for his work on the Mount Diablo Repeater site.

Larry was an engineering graduate of the University of Southern California, 1930. Prior to World War II, Larry was a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps.

He was the chief electronic engineer at T.V. Channel 2, (at that time, Ch. 9). From 1950 until 1970, Larry operated a motel and trailer park in Redwood City. Larry was a member of the Quarter Century Amateur Radio Club, the Elks Lodge no. 1991, Redwood City, the Belmont Senior Club, and S.I.R.S., branch no. 90, Belmont.

Larry is survived by his wife, Marguerite; a son, Robert; and three grandchildren.

## FOR SALE:

Heathkit SB-104A w/ cw filter, Heath mic and homebrew P.S. \$450.00

Swan 270 Cygnet 80-10m w/ built-in AC/DC P.S. and outboard Xtal control for net or MARS use. \$200.00

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Contact Ken Dwight, WA6NYB, 415-856-0727 Home or 415-493-4000 x 4411 or x3314.

## Erratta:

New member, Irvin W. Goldstine's call is W6PDG,

not W6PRG as reported in last month's PAARAgaphs.

#### TRACING ONE'S ANCESTORS:

Your Editor knows that several Club members make a hobby of tracing their family trees, and he thought that they might like to know that the Genealogical Library at 1105 Valparaiso Avenue, Menlo Park, (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints), has a substantial part of the 1901 Belfast, Northern Ireland Census in stock. This should be of help to anyone who has ancestors who lived in Belfast in 1901.

#### HEARING INJURY DUE TO RADIO:

From the April 1982 R.S.G.B. magazine, Radio Communication.

A legal case involving questions affecting all those whose job or hobby involves many hours of listening to weak signals half buried in noise was fought out recently in the High Court. It was successfully claimed on behalf of three radio intercept operators (and the widow of a fourth) that constant monitoring of radio signals had been the cause of their severe hearing impairments. All had worked for GCHQ (Composite Signals Organization) (British Army) for many years.

No one who has listened with headphones to the H.F. bands during periods of high static crashes would underestimate the effect on their ears. Some receivers, designed primarily to feed a watt or more of audio to a loudspeaker, can feed almost the same amount of power to a pair of headphones. The article suggested a pair of diodes as a limiter across one's headphones to prevent hearing injury.

As your Editor's threat to continue publishing his reminiscences unless other PAARA members submitted articles, has prompted no such articles, here is another installment. As readers of last month's issue know, your Editor grew up in the town of Newcastle, in County Down, in Northern Ireland.

Of the mountains behind the town, the best known is Slieve Donard, named after an early Irish saint or hermit who lived on the summit. The mountain rises from sea level to a height of 2796 feet and is the highest mountain in Northern Ireland. We used the summit as a 2 metre Field Day site, for one can see, to the East, the Isle of Man and the Scottish coast, and to the south, the Wicklow Mountains, south of Dublin, about 110 miles away. The air is crystal-clear, and the water in the streams is as pure as distilled water. Your Editor has climbed this mountain in almost every way possible, even at midnight on New Year's Eve, in waist deep snow, carrying a storm lantern!

Younger PAARA and Post 599 members who might wish to travel in Europe as cheaply as possible during this summer vacation, should be aware of the Youth Hostel movement, which can be joined in San Francisco. The Youth Hostels offer simple, inexpensive accommodation where bicycles, rucksacks, fishing tackle and climbing gear are not out-of-place. There are four such hostels in the Newcastle area: Kinnahalla (48 beds), Newcastle (48 beds), Slieve-naman (20 beds) and Minerstown (22 beds). A sheet bag should be purchased at the San Francisco Youth Hostel H.Q. The Youth Hostel Association of Northern Ireland is at 56 Bradbury Place, Belfast BT7 1RU, tel. 0232 24733. The equivalent organization for the Republic of Ireland is An Oige, the address for which can be found in the Dublin telephone book, available in the Menlo Park and Palo Alto Libraries. If anyone goes, have a nice trip! Ed.



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